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# Botanical Bulletin.

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**PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA, L.**—I have been watching, for some weeks past, a plant of common Ribwort, (*Plantago lanceolata*, L. which has interested me very much. The styles made their appearance, as is the habit of this genus, and seemed to be quite long for the species. After a time they began to bend down so that the stigma entered the tube of the corolla, and soon the whole style was coiled up in the corolla tube, remaining there for a day or more, in some instances, when it resumed its erect position. I then commenced to watch for the appearance of the stamens, but none made their appearance. As this seemed singular, I made close examination of the blossoms, to find stamens or anthers, for I could not imagine why the styles bent down into the corolla unless there were anthers present. But though I examined scores I failed to detect any sign of stamen or anther, except in a few instances a ligulate appendage was found in the place of the stamen, perhaps it might be considered a petaloid filament, but not the least sign of an anther was to be found.

Some of the spikes are quite well fertilized, which is not strange, some only partially so, and on some there is only one fertile ovary. This singular behavior of the styles has been in operation for weeks, going on in succession from the base to the summit of the spikes, so that very frequently on the same spike may be seen the coiled styles, below them those that have been coiled up but have become straight again, above them those that are developing, making, on the whole, a singular spectacle. Now what principle of instinct, or "natural selection" operated here? For evidently the stigmas were seeking after something that had not been supplied in the ordinary manner. I have watched many other plants of this species but none others have been found showing such variations, or any out of the usual line of development.

Have found a large number of spikes of the common plantain with leaves on the scape just below the flowers, many with branches as well as leaves, and quite a number with double spikes. In some specimens the spikes were very much divided, having as many as eight or ten branches.—N. COLEMAN, *Bloomfield, Conn.*

**A REMARKABLE CHERRY TREE.**—Mr. Wm. Ellis, of Gilead, Tolland Co., in this State, has a most remarkable cherry tree on his place. The tree is about ten inches in diameter, quite thrifty, and has for several years in succession borne two kinds of cherries, both choice fruit, one a light colored early cherry, the other a dark cherry that does not ripen till some time after the others are gone. The later kind does not blossom till some time after the others, and what seems a singular feature of this most singular freak of nature, the clusters of buds come out right by the side of the green cherries, and this is not confined to one branch or to one side of the tree, but is on all the branches all over the tree. Can not state the variety of the original stock, but am told great pains were taken in the grafting. If such a thing were possible one might imagine it the old stock asserting its rights through the new one's branches. Can you give any explanation of the phenomenon, or do you know of any like example?—N. COLEMAN.

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